



STARMAN



NO. 37
DEC '97
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\$3.25 CAN

JAMES ROBINSON
TONY HARRIS
WADE VON GRAWBADGER

I GOTTA SAY, DAVEY, I WAS EXPECTING ANOTHER SURPRISE.

YOU POPPING OUT FROM NOWHERE. "PSYCHE!" AND THEN WE'D GET THINGS ROLLING.

BUT THIS TIME, IT WAS LIKE I BLINKED, I WENT FROM MY WORLD TO THIS IN A HEARTBEAT AND THERE YOU WERE STANDING BEFORE ME.

YEAH, WELL, I KNEW YOU'D BE EXPECTING ME. THAT DIDN'T TAKE EINSTEIN TO FIGURE OUT.

SO I DECIDED THE DIRECT APPROACH WAS THE RIGHT WAY THIS TIME.

I MET EINSTEIN BY THE WAY. HE HAD NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT DAD.

REALLY?

YEAH.

COOL.

FOR ME IT WAS, YEAH, WAY COOL. I KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO MEET GEORGE ZUCCO OR IRENE DUNNE, BUT THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.

AND I'M FINALLY BEGINNING TO SEE NEITHER OF US WAS BETTER THAN THE OTHER FOR THAT DIFFERENCE, EITHER.

ME TOO.

SO WHAT'S AHEAD?

A SMALL PARTY. A FEW FRIENDS.

THROUGH HERE. I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY...

JACK KNIGHT
created by
JAMES ROBINSON
& TONY HARRIS

... CAUSE
DINNER IS
SERVED!

Talking With David, '97





SO JACK,
TELL US
ABOUT YOUR
FATHER.
HOW'S TED
DOING?

FINE. WE MADE A
DEAL, HIM AND I. I DO
THE HERO THING. HE DE-
VOTES HIS REMAINING
YEARS TO COSMIC RE-
SEARCH THAT MIGHT
BENEFIT MANKIND.

IS HE
HAPPY?

YOU KNOW,
I'M NOT SURE.
I'VE NEVER
THOUGHT TO
ASK HIM.

PERHAPS
YOU
SHOULD.

YES.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO
SAY TO YOU, JACK. IF YOU
ARE DOING THE HERO THING.
IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT
IT.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE.
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DOING
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS ENOUGH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE
ANYONE YOU'RE A HERO.

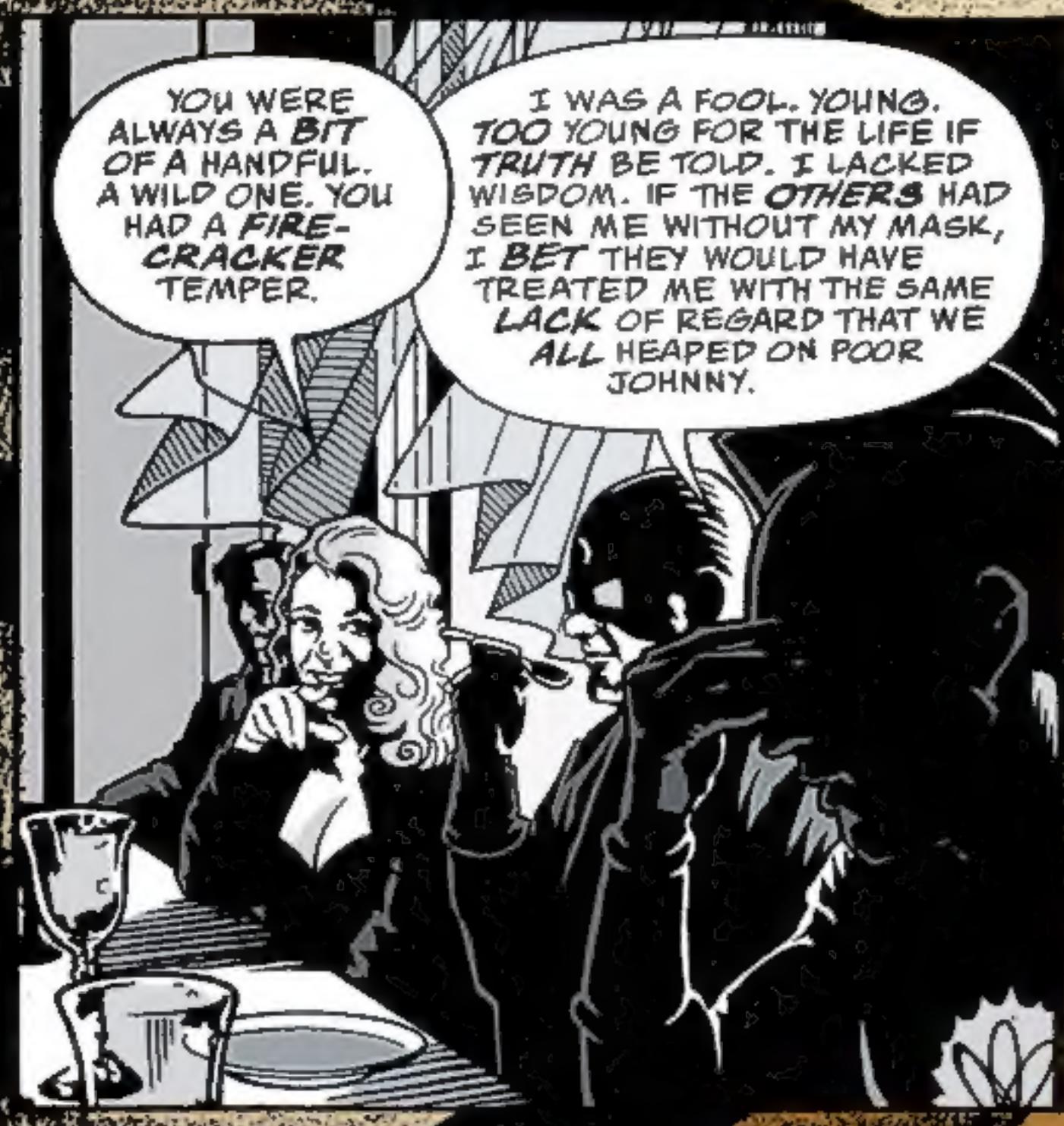
DID
YOU?

YES.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M 5'1". I HAD TO
PROVE MYSELF TO EVERYONE. NOT JUST AS
A HERO, BUT AS A MAN. THE GIRL I MARRIED
...THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, SHE THOUGHT
I WAS A JOKE. EVERYONE FELT THAT
WAY.

THIS WAS BEFORE THE MEDIA EXPANDED
EVERYONE'S PERCEPTIONS, TOO. MICHAEL J.
FOX. DUSTIN HOFFMAN. ALL THOSE OTHER
ACTORS AND PUBLIC FIGURES. PEOPLE ARE
USED TO SHORT NOWADAYS. THEY VALUE
SOMEONE FOR THEIR ABILITIES,
NOT THEIR STATURE.

BACK THEN
THE WORLD
WANTED GARY
COOPER.



ANYWAY, JACK, WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU IS PLAY IT COOL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ANYONE.

NOT TO OPAL CITY. NOT TO YOUR FATHER. CERTAINLY NOT TO ANY OF US DEPARTED.

REMEMBER THAT.

I'LL SAY ONE THING.

YES, DR. MID-NITE?

IT'S MCNIDER. CHARLES MCNIDER. MY FRIENDS SOMETIMES EVEN CALL ME CHARLIE.

ANYWAY, IT MAKES ME SO SAD TO HEAR THAT YOUR FATHER IS DOING SOMETHING FOR THE WORLD WITH HIS SCIENCE.

SAD?

AND ASHAMED.

NOT FOR TED, BUT FOR MYSELF.

I DEVELOPED A MEANS TO SEE... ME, A BLIND MAN. I COULD SEE IN THE DARK. WITH THE GOGGLES, I COULD EVEN SEE IN THE LIGHT.

NOW WHAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IS THAT MY OPTICAL CONDITION WAS SINGULAR. MY GOGGLES WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED FOR EVERYONE ELSE. BUT...

...THINK OF WHAT I MIGHT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IF I'D SIMPLY TAKEN THE TIME TO TRY.

IF I'D EXPANDED ON MY INVENTION, I MIGHT HAVE GIVEN THE BLIND OF THE ENTIRE WORLD A MEANS OF SIGHT.







I WAS
LONELY WHEN
WE MET. MY WIFE
WAS DEAD.

CHARITY
WAS YOUNG,
SHE ADMIRED
ME

I ALLOWED
IT TO HAPPEN,
THOUGH I KNEW
NOTHING GOOD
COULD COME
OF IT.

THOUGH
SURPRISINGLY,
SOMETHING DID.
THE FRIENDSHIP
I SPOKE OF.

"...AND I FOUGHT
CRIMINALS."

THERE'S A BOOK
ABOUT YOU. WRITTEN
IN THE '50s.

"ZATARA:
MAN OF MAGIC."
BORING TITLE.
BORING BOOK.

I THINK
I'D STILL
LIKE TO READ
IT.

THERE ISN'T
MUCH IN IT YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T ALREADY
KNOW. I WAS A
MAGICIAN. I RAN
AROUND NEW
YORK IN A
TUXEDO... LOOKING
ELEGANT AS
HELL, I MIGHT
ADD...



THOUGH THAT WAS NEVER A MAJOR PART OF MY LIFE--

--IT'S WHAT MANY... THE AUTHOR OF THAT BOOK ESPECIALLY... CHOSE TO DWELL ON.

MS. LANCE? ONE THING I LEARNED...

YES?

ABOUT MY FATHER. YOU WERE HIS FRIEND.

YES.

FOR A LITTLE WHILE YOU WERE HIS "SPECIAL" FRIEND.

IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

HEY, HEY, NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE!

WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

WESLEY DODDS.

THAT WESLEY. FOR SOMEONE WHO COULD BE SO QUIET AND THOUGHTFUL THERE WERE OTHER TIMES HE COULD BE SUCH A BLABBER-MOUTH.

WE WERE GETTING OLDER. WE WERE IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS.

DIANA? THIS TRUE? YOU'RE KIDDING ME!

SO WHAT MESSAGE YOU GOT FOR JACK? YOU GOT A MAP OF HIS DAD'S MOLES?

DON'T BE DISGUSTING, BEE. GOD, WHAT HAS COME OVER YOU?

YES, BEE, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO UPSET ME. DO YOU REALLY WANT THAT?

I DON'T HAVE ANY WISDOM FOR YOU, JACK. JUST A WARNING. DON'T LET THE HEAT OF BATTLE CAUSE YOU TO MAKE MISTAKES.

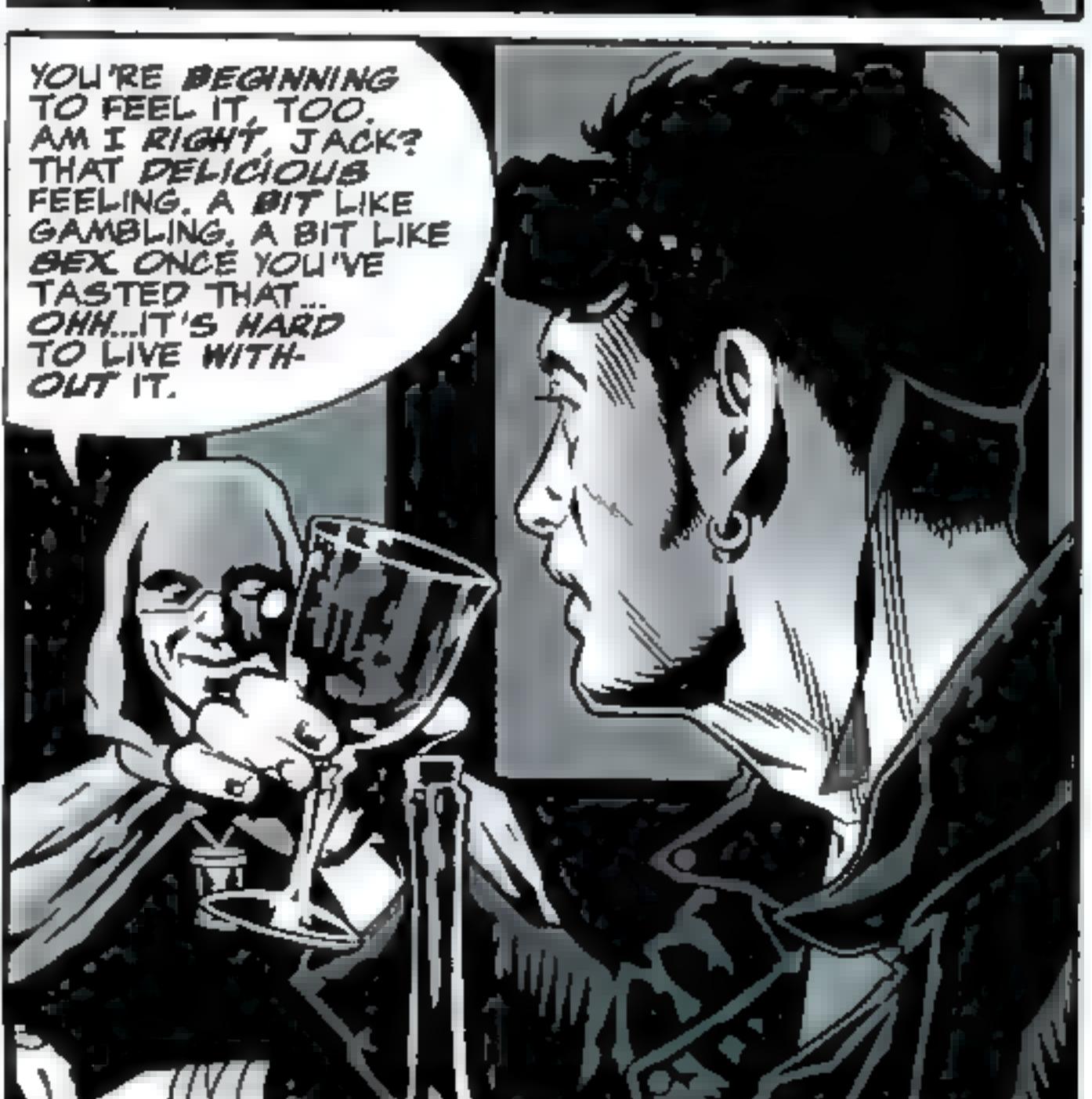
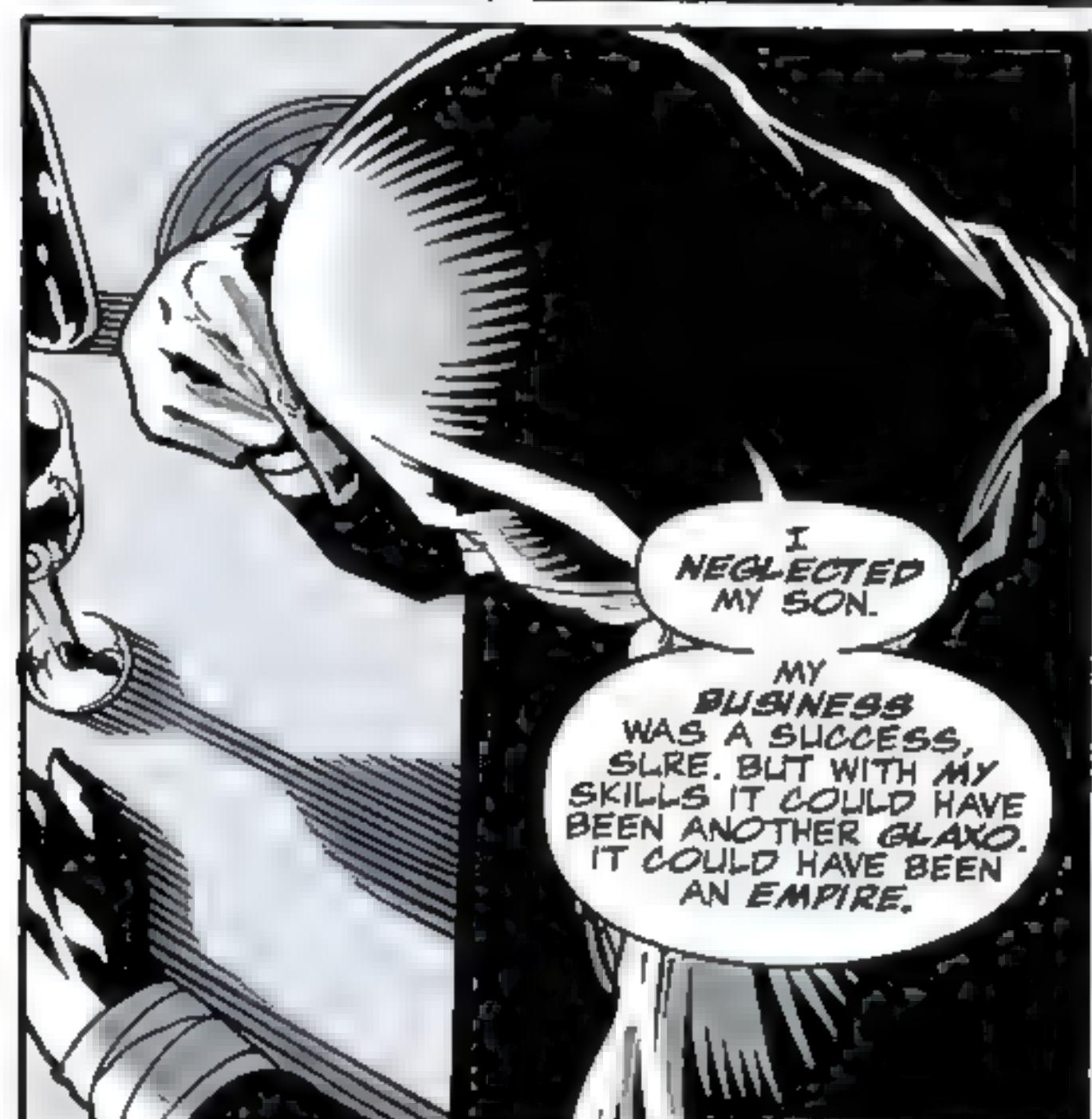
DON'T RUSH INTO PASSION AND PERIL LIKE TED AND I DID WITHOUT A CLEAR HEAD.

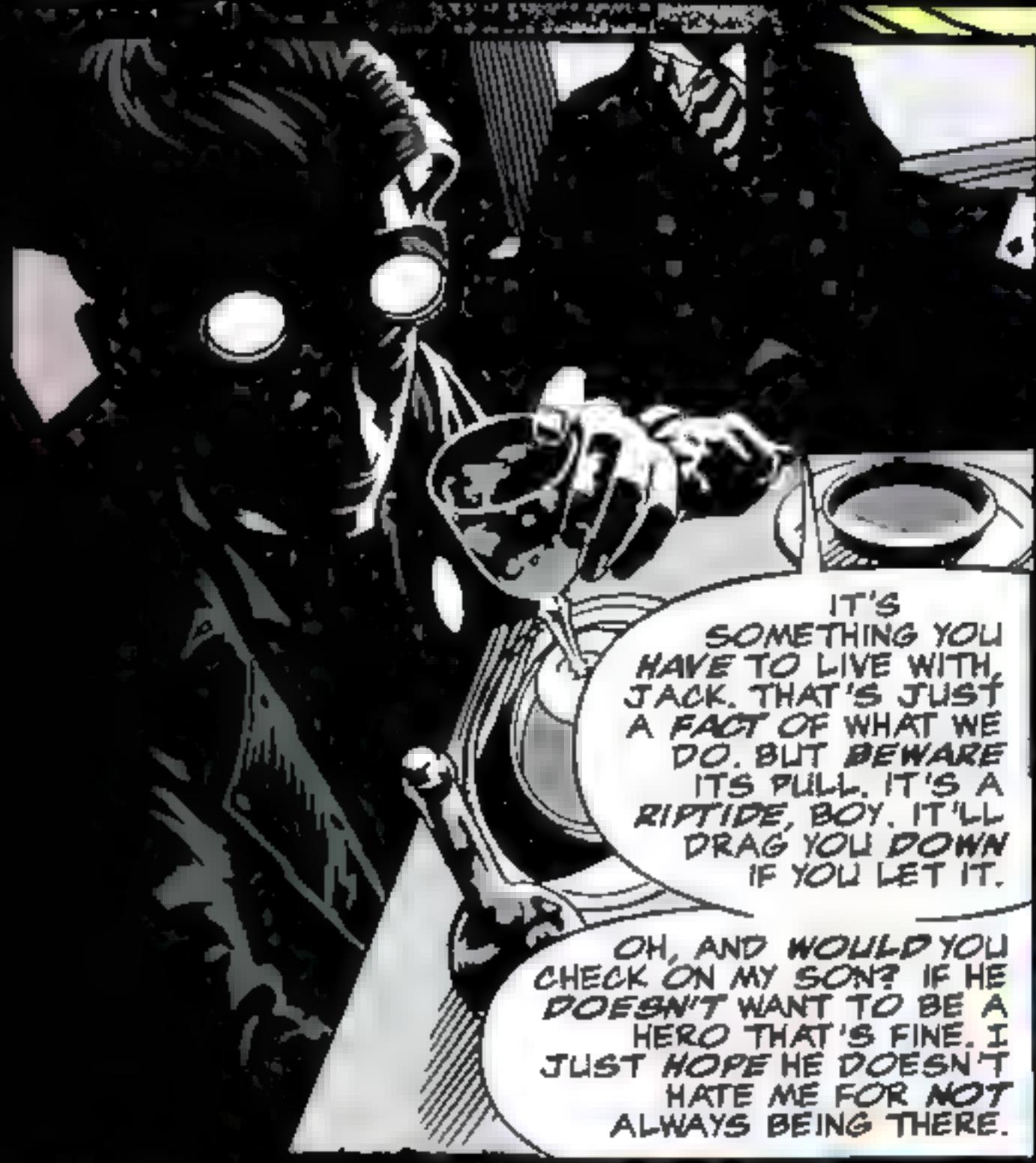
OH, AND IN CASE YOU'RE WORRIED, THE REASON OUR FLING DIDN'T GO FURTHER WAS BECAUSE BOTH OF US GENUINELY LOVED OUR SPOUSES.

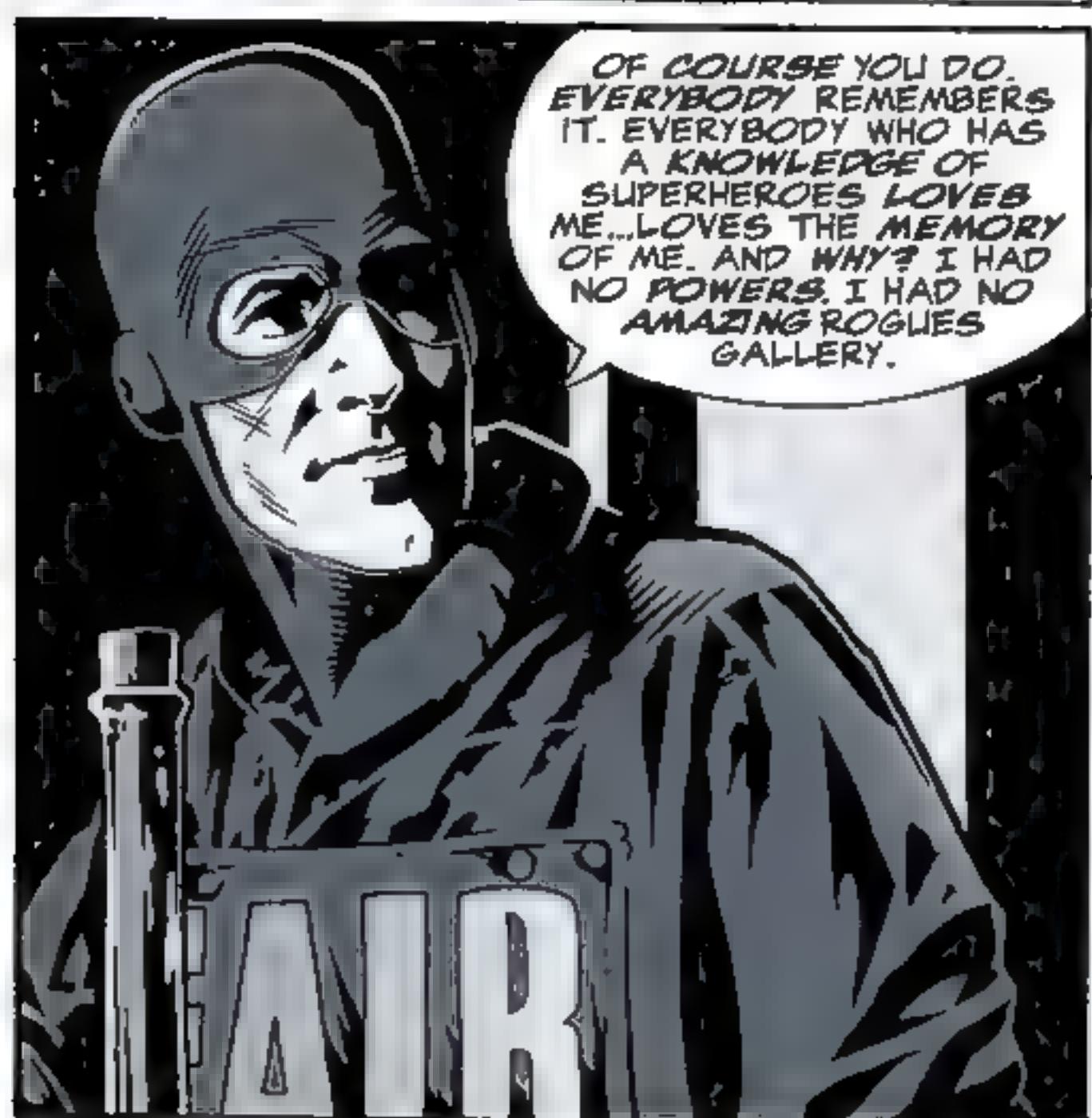
"...TED AND I SURE MADE A GREAT TEAM."

YOU HEAR ME, BOYS? TED LOVED YOUR MOTHER DEEPLY.

STILL...







I STUCK
AT IT FOR SO
LONG IN AN ATTEMPT
TO ACHIEVE THAT
SUCCESS. IT SEEMED
IMPOSSIBLE THAT TERRY
SLOAN COULDN'T
MASTER A SIMPLE
TASK LIKE BEING A
MYSTERYMAN.

BUT
I NEVER
DID.

MY ADVICE TO YOU, JACK, IS NEVER TO LET
VANITY CLOUD YOU. BELIEVE ME, OF ALL THE
ADVICE YOU'VE GOTTEN THIS NIGHT, MINE WILL
SERVE YOU GREATEST IN WHAT YOU'LL
ONE DAY FACE.

I HAVE A THOUGHT,
TERRY. THE WORDS "FAIR
PLAY." THEY'RE ONLY CORNY
AND NAIVE...HELL, THEY'RE
JUST PLAIN DUMB...BUT ONLY IF
YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM
YOURSELF.

IF YOU BELIEVED
THEM...ENOUGH TO WEAR
THEM PROUDLY LIKE YOU
DID...MAYBE THAT MAKES
YOU THE GREATEST
HERO OF THEM
ALL.

OH
I BELIEVED
THEM. I STILL
DO.

"I'LL BELIEVE
THOSE WORDS
FOREVER."

FAIR
PLAY



Black Canary

WHAT'S FAIR ABOUT ALL OF US BEING DEAD AND GONE, AND JACK DEIGNING TO TOUCH HIS FATHER'S MANTLE LIKE HE'S DOING THE WORLD A FAVOR AND PEOPLE LOVING HIM FOR IT? WHAT'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT?

WE'VE SPOKEN BEFORE, BEE. WE'VE GOTTEN ALONG. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU TONIGHT. YOU'RE DIFFERENT. RUDE. WHAT GIVES?







THAT'S LIFE.
THAT'S THE DECK
YOU'RE GIVEN. BUT WE
WEREN'T LAUGHING AT YOU.
YOU WERE ONE OF US. WE
WERE BROTHERS, ALL
OF US.

YEAH, I GUESS.
AND THE ONE TIME
ME AND JACK'S
DAD TEAMED UP...
HE HAD A ROD
DRAWING POWER
FROM THE STARS...
AND I HAD TWO
TRAINED BEES.
AND HE STILL
TREATED ME
LIKE AN EQUAL.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
THAT.
I'LL...



A TOAST.

TO
JACK KNIGHT.
MAY HE BE THE
SON OF HIS
FATHER.

AND
BY FIGHTING
THE FIGHT...BY
LIVING THE
LIFE...



...MAY HE
HONOR US
ALL.

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE!"

DCP